

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CHU/171/US

In claim 2, line 2, the word "biassed" has been deleted and the word "biased" has been inserted into claim 2 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 3 has been deleted and the objection is no longer applicable.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-5 have been rejected to as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which Applicant regards as the invention. The Office Action states that in claim 1, at line 3, there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of "end-to-end". Claim 1, as amended, clearly defines the limitation "end-to-end" and therefore obviates any 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by McEnery (U.S. Application No. 1,810,109). A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper since McEnery '109 patent does not, at the minimum, teach or suggest a cooperatively engaging locking means at the handle remote end for releasable engagement and locking retention of the handle to the shank at the shank remote end when the handle is folded over the shank. In addition, the claimed invention is non-obvious since any analogous locking means in McEnery would by contrast be located at the connecting ends. Moreover, the type of locking mechanism in McEnery would not be suitable for location away from the connecting ends.

In regard to claim 2. Claim 2 is directly dependent on claim 1. As such, claim 2 is patentable for the reasons stated above in discussion of the patentability of claim 1.

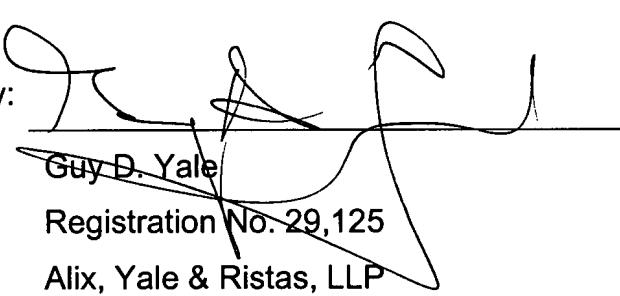
Claims 4 and 5 are directly dependent upon claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons advanced for claim 1 above.

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In summary, Applicant has addressed each of the rejections within the present Office Action either by Amendment or Remark. It is believed the application now stands in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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